

From: JLynch3D
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: comment on MS

I'd like to comment on the Microsoft antitrust situation and lawsuit. I am not an employee of MS or have any dealings with them in business.

In my opinion, the problems that MS had have been brought to light, and corrections have already been made. The most notable of them being public awareness. Why do I think this is the most important correction against MS? For two reasons:

1. A company's reputation is the most important asset they own. Obviously, MS has taken quite a blow here. This can be evidenced by the slowdown in their business and the rise to power of newer power players in the technology industry. Foremost of these are AOL/Time Warner, which owns the internet business, lock, stock, and barrel. Linux is another product that has come to power as an OS. And as well as the handheld Palm products, and the cell phones which have gone to other OS's. If anything, in these competitive technology markets, MS may end up finding themselves squeezed into an area of selling products into the slowing and mature PC market, and being out run by newer companies in new innovative areas of technology.

2. Awareness is important because consumers and business owners need to constantly be aware that they are responsible for the decisions and choices they make...and that there are choices. This strikes at the heart of what America is - responsibility for our actions, and for freedom. People who do not like MS can buy an Apple OS computer, or a Linux OS computer, or other alternatives like a Be based OS and computer.

Personally, I use an MS based computer. I do not think it is the best OS or browser in the world and it has a lot of faults. But so do all technology products in these complex areas. However, I am thankful that MS is a company that has unified the computer industry by giving it a platform that people can communicate with, and this may be the one single factor that has led to all the innovation and productivity of this country in the last ten years.

In summary, I do not think MS should be penalized further. It is time to move on - the technology world is not where it was five years ago. It's also time to be thankful and hopeful that MS remains a vital and strong part of American industry. Without it I believe our entire economy would suffer. And God help us if another foreign company rises to power and supplants MS.

Regards,

Jim Lynch